(a) whether it is a fact that ad-hoc recognition was accorded to some employees' associations of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in April-May '95, following adoption of C.C.S. (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1995, by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) whether these associations have since fulfilled the conditions subject to which the said recognition was accorded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons for the continuation of the said recognition?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (Recognition of Service Association) Regulations 1995, provide continuation of recognition of existing associations for a period of one year with effect from April 20, 1995. The period has since been extended by six months to complete the process of verification of membership strength of associations which have applied for recognition as per guidelines of Department of Personnel & Training.

News-item regarding bungling in Railway Ministry

*155. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs. 121 Cr. bungling in Railway Ministry" as reported in the 'Pioneer' of the 3rd June, 1996;

(b) if so, whether a panel of experts have urged Government to immediately scuttle a freight computerisation project;

(c) if so, whether Government have ordered probe into the scandal; and

(d) if so, by when the persons involved would be booked?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Committee of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has, after undertaking a study of the software of the Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) under trial in Delhi Area, submitted its report identifying the causes of the problems and deficiencies in the software and has made certain short-term and long-term recommendations so that a workable and useful system becomes available. The Committee has not suggested or implied any 'scuttling' or abandonment of the project nor has it imputed any motives to the officials concerned, which may call for a probe, as has been reported in the news items. The report is under consideration and necessary decisions would be taken shortly.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Externally Aided Projects

*156. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the externally aided projects being presently implemented;

(b) the districts in which the aforesaid programmes are being implemented;

(c) the guidelines norms for the selection of such districts;

(d) whether any committee has been formed for evaluation of the result of these projects; and

(e) what are the details of the report, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) The following major externally aided projects are presently being implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development:

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Funding agency
1.	District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)	World Bank and European Commission
2.	Bihar Education Project	UNICEF
3.	UP Basic Education Project	World Bank
4.	Shiksha Karmi Project	Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
5.	Lok Jumbish, Rajasthan	SIDA
6.	Mahila Samakhya	Govt. of Netherlands
7.	Technician Education Project	World Bank
8.	Regional Engineering Colleges	Overseas Development Agency, U.K.

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Funding agency
9.	Integrated Child Development Scheme	World Bank
10.	Assistance to 47 ICDS Projects in Tamil Nadu	Govt. of Sweden

(b) to (e) The position regarding the districts in which the aforesaid programmes are being implemented, the guidelines/norms for selection of such districts and evaluation of these projects is as follows:

(1) District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)

Coverage of Districts

Assam : Dhubri, Darang, Morigaon and Karbi Anglong.

Haryana : Sirsa, Hissar, Jind and Kaithal.

Karnataka : Kolar, Mandya, Belgaum and Raichur.

Kerala : Kasaragod, Wayanad and Mallapuram.

Maharashtra : Aurangabad, Osamanabad, Nanded, Parbhani and Latur.

Tamil Nadu : South Arcot, Dharampuri, Thiruvannamalai Sambuvaarayar.

Madhya Pradesh : Sidhi, Rajgarh, Sarguja, Guna, Panna, Timakgarh, Shahdol, Dhar, Chhatarpur, Sehore, Raisen, Rajgarh, Rewa, Bilaspur, Satna, Rajnandgaon, Mandsaur, Ratlam and Betul.

District Selection Criteria

Districts with female literacy rate less than the national average and/or districts where Total Literacy Campaigns (TLCs) have successfully generated a demand for elementary education.

Evaluation of the Project

An indepth and comprehensive mid-term review of the project is envisaged in 1997-98. However, DPEP has a provision for quarterly Supervision Missions. The Missions, in general, have expressed satisfaction about the progress of the project.

(2) Bihar Education Project (BEP)

Coverage of Districts

Ranchi, West Champaran, Rohtas, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Chatra and East Singhbhoom.

District Selection Critaria

The districts have been selected by the Govt. of Bihar, keeping in view the educational backwardness of these districts. Also, six out of seven districts have female literacy rate below the national average.

Evaluation of the Project

A Mid-Term Review of the BEP took place in June-July, 1994. The Review Mission have expressed general satisfaction over the project implementation and recommended for further improvement like consolidation of the programme in the existing 7 districts, strong linkages between BEP and the education system in Bihar.

(3) Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Projects (UPBEP)

Coverage of Districts

Allahabad, Aligarh, Banda, Etawah, Gorakhpur, Nainital, Pauri, Saharanpur, Sitapur, Varanasi, Bhadohi and Udham Singh Nagar.

District Selection Criteria

Districts which fall below the national female literacy rate

Evaluation of the Project

World Bank has, so far, launched five Supervision Missions. The Mission's reports have shown satisfactory progress.

(4) Shiksha Karmi Project

Coverage of Districts

The project has so far covered 1066 villages in 67 Blocks of 25 districts of Rajasthan.

District Selection Criteria

The Project is not district based.

Evaluation of the Project

A joint Indo-Swedish Review of the Project was held recently in February,

1996 and they have expressed satisfaction about the progress of the project.

(5) **Lok Jumbish: Rajasthan**

Coverage of Districts

The programme is block-based and not district-based. 58 blocks in 27 districts have been covered.

District Selection Criteria

In Lok Jumbish, the Block is the basic unit and blocks are selected on the basis of following criteria:

(i) Educational backwardness in terms of literacy rates of women and SCs/ STs and of poor educational infrastructure

(ii) Interest and enthusiasm of Panchayat Samitis

(iii) Availability of NGOs and trained personnel of other social sector programmes to implement the project.

Evaluation of the Project

A joint evaluation by Government of India-Swedish International Development Agency-Govt. of Rajasthan conducted in 1993 had commended the programme and was appreciative of community participation, decentralised management structure and community centred participatory buildings development programme.

(6) **Mahila Samakhya (MS)**

Coverage of Districts

Uttar Pradesh: Allahabad, Banda, Etawah, Pauri, Sahranpur, Sitapur, Varanasi and Tehri-Garhwal.

Gujarat: Banaskantha, Baroda, Sabarkantha and Rajkot

Karnataka: Raichur, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Bidar and Mysore

Andhra Pradesh:
Mehboobnagar and Medak

District Selection Criteria

The districts are selected in consultation with the States.

Evaluation of the Project

A National level independent evaluation in 1993 has shown that Mahila Samakhya has been able to lay a foundation for women's empowerment at the grass-root level and been able to establish women's issues in the public domain.

(7) **Technician Education Project**

Coverage of Districts

The World Bank assisted Technician Education Project is not district based. It is meant for strengthening polytechnic education in the country. 17 States and 2 Union Territories, namely, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat,Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, West Bengal, Delhi and Pondicherry are covered under the project.

District Selection Criteria

Not Applicable

Evaluation of the Project

In the Mid-Term Reviews conducted by the World Bank in October, 1994 (for phase-I of the project) and in August-September, 1995 (for phase-II of the project), satisfaction has been expressed over the progress of implementation of the project.

(8) **Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs)**

Coverage of Districts

An Indo-UK Technical cooperation project to strengthen technical education in India through assistance to 8 Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) namely Allahabad, Jaipur, Bhopal, Trichy, Nagpur, Rourkela, Surathkal and Warangal.

District Selection Criteria

The programme is not district based.

Evaluation of the Project

A Project Steering Committee monitors the overall progress of the Project at the national level. A Mid-Term Review has

also been conducted in June, 1996 by the ODA and Govt. of India jointly and they have expressed satisfaction about the progress of the Project.

(9) **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)**

Coverage of Districts

The Project is not district based. It is being implemented 601 blocks of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh with assistance from World Bank.

District Selection Criteria

All the tribal blocks and rural blocks having highest percentage of SC/ST population.

Evaluation of the Project

As per the agreement with the World Bank, there is a provision of mid-term and final evaluation of the project. No other specific committee has been constituted for the evaluation of the Project. The mid-term evaluation of the Project in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa is already in progress and the evaluation report is expected by the end of this year.

(10) **Assistance to 47 ICDS Projects in Tamil Nadu**

Coverage of Districts

3 districts of Nilgiris, Puddukottai and Chengalpattu-MGR in Tamil Nadu with Swedesh assistance.

District Selection Criteria

The districts were identified keeping in view the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the disadvantaged areas of the State.

Evaluation of the Project

Joint reviews by the Govt. of Sweden and Govt. of India have highlighted a significant impact in improving nutritional and health status of the vulnerable groups comprising children upto 6 years of age, adolescent girls, pregnent women and nursing mothers.

Pollution of Rivers

*157. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long stretches of thirteen rivers including Yamuna, Sutlej, Sabarmati, Godavari, Krishna, Chambal, Gomti—are unfit for human consumption as reported in 'Pioneer' of 20th January, 1995;

(b) whether Government are throwing hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees down the drain in the name of cleaning the rivers; and

(c) whether prevention would not be better than cure, and whether the best course would not be to prevent the pollution of rivers by requiring all towns and industries to set up adequate waste treatment plants before releasing it into the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) According to a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), stretches of various rivers were found polluted. A statement containing stretchwise details of existing and desired class of river water including the possible sources of pollution is laid on the table of the House. (*See on next*).

(b) and (c) The Government has launched the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in July 1995 for the pollution abatement of the polluted stretches. Under the plan, the sewage generated in the identified towns shall be intercepted, diverted and treated before discharge into the river besides taking up works of low cost sanitation, improved wood based crematoria, river front development and solid waste disposal. The industrial pollution caused to the river waters is controlled by enforcement of environment laws.

Long-Term Action Plan for Agricultural Sector

*158. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a long-term action plan for agricultural sector; and